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Florida House of Representatives Voted to Improve the Healthcare Marketplace

The Florida House passed **CS/CS/HB 25**, which changes the allowable length of stay in Ambulatory Surgical Centers from less than one working day to no more than 48 hours. The bill also allows an Ambulatory Surgical Center to provide advanced birth services if it meets certain requirements. In addition, the bill creates a new license for Recovery Care Centers in Florida, which will be permitted to keep a patient up to 72 hours. The bill provides lower-cost, high-quality alternatives for Floridians.

The bill now heads to the Senate for their consideration.

Private Property Right Bill Passed House and Senate

HB 1159 requires county property appraisers to post a Property Owner Bill of Rights on their websites. The Property Owner Bill of Rights includes the right to acquire, possess, and protect property; use and enjoy property; exclude others from property; dispose of property; due process; just compensation for property taken for a public purpose; and relief when a new state or local government law, rule, regulation, or ordinance unfairly affects property. The website must state the Bill of Rights is not comprehensive and does not represent all property rights under Florida law.

The bill also gives residential property owners more power to prune, trim, or remove trees on their property by prohibiting local governments from requiring any sort of permit or notice when a tree is determined by a certified arborist or licensed landscape architect to be a danger to others or property. Further, the bill prohibits local governments from requiring the property owner to replant a tree that is pruned, trimmed, or removed under these specified conditions. The bill also allows a property owner adjacent to an electric utility right-of-way to request an electric utility to maintain the right-of-way without approval from the local government.

The bill now heads to the Governor.

Florida House Voted for Medicaid Eligibility Improvements

The Florida House passed **CS/HB 955** which creates a new eligibility requirement for Medicaid to incentivize employment.

The bill directs the Agency for Health Care Administration to seek federal approval to require able-bodied adults in the Medicaid program to work or be in school – consistent with the requirements for federal cash assistance programs.

The bill now heads to the Senate for their consideration



Florida House Voted for Tax Relief

The Florida House passed **HB 7123** to reduce taxes for Floridians. The Committee passed several tax reductions and other tax-related modifications designed to directly impact both families and businesses. Below are some highlights of the bill:

- Creates a three-day **Back-to-School Tax Holiday**.
- Reduces the **Business Rent Tax** for businesses.
- Authorizes a seven-day **Disaster Preparedness Tax Holiday**.
- Clarifies and addresses **local property tax** issues to provide clarity and accountability to Floridians.

Florida House Voted to Expand Access to Health Insurance

The Florida House passed **CS/CS/CS/HB 997** to enable Floridians to purchase health insurance through association and short-term health insurance.

Association plans are group insurance that can be purchased by members of a trade association or other groups. Short term plans offer coverage for limited duration and are exempt from some federal regulations.

The bill now heads to the Senate for their consideration.

Florida House Passed Career and Workforce Education Bill

The Florida House passed **HB 7071** to enhance career and workforce education. The bill incorporates the substance of **HB 7055**, to develop career pathways and postsecondary credential attainment so that Florida can reach the Governor's goal of becoming #1 in workforce education.

HB 7071 creates the "SAIL to 60" Initiative to increase postsecondary credential attainment for working age Floridians. The goal is to raise the percentage of working age adults with a high-value postsecondary certificate, degree, or training experience to 60% by 2030.

The bill requires the establishment of a reverse transfer agreement between the State University System and the Florida College System (FCS) and requires school districts and technical colleges to establish career pathways articulation agreements with the FCS institution in their area.

The bill creates the Florida Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program to expand existing, and establish new apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs and requires the Department of Education to publish on its website an annual report to promote these programs and increase transparency.

The bill requires the Department of Education to review career education programs for alignment with market demands and to eliminate programs that do not address priority workforce demands.

Finally, the bill enables school districts to meet the academic needs of students and be responsive to labor market demands by providing flexibility to meet graduation requirements through career education,



establishing career planning requirements for middle school students and increasing awareness of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.

The bill now heads to the Senate for their consideration.

Florida House Passed Civics Education Bill

HB 807 requires instructional materials used for the middle grades civics education course to be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Education in consultation with various organizations and stakeholders. The bill requires the Commissioner to review and make recommendations for improvements to current state adopted civics material and the statewide civics end-of-course assessment by December 31, 2019. The Department of Education is required to review civics education course standards by December 31, 2020.

The bill also allows students who participate in certain civic engagement programs to have their hours count toward service work requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

The bill now heads to the Senate for their consideration.

Florida House Passed Criminal Justice Reform

The Florida House passed **HB 7125** including the following provisions:

- Allowing a court to sentence a defendant to **administrative probation**, a form of nonreporting supervision that is available to low-risk offenders currently only by transfer of the Department of Corrections (DOC), and to transfer a defendant to administrative probation or terminate probation upon successful completion of half their probationary term.
- Authorizing each judicial circuit to create a **community court**, to address misdemeanor crimes.
- Reforming probation violations and standardizing an alternative sanctioning system for technical probation violations.
- Requiring each clerk of court to create a **Driver License Reinstatement Days** program to facilitate reinstatement for those who have had their license suspended or revoked.
- Expanding **reentry services** for recently released inmates by providing greater job training and career planning opportunities for inmates and authorizing DOC to expand the use of job assignment credentialing and industry certifications.
- Requiring DOC to develop a Prison Entrepreneurship Program and adopt procedures for inmate admission.
- Increasing the threshold values for specified theft offenses including petit theft, retail theft, and grand theft.
- Expanding eligibility for veterans' treatment programs to specified individuals who are current or former US Department of Defense contractors or military members of a foreign allied country.
- Authorizing a court to sentence a person meeting all other criteria as a youthful offender if he or she was 21 or younger at the time of the offense, regardless of age at the time of sentence.



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE DANE EAGLE, MAJORITY LEADER

- Repealing all mandatory direct file provisions and allowing, but not requiring, a state attorney to direct file an information against a child meeting discretionary direct file criteria.

Florida House Passed Charter School Bill

The Florida House passed **HB 1197** to increase the number of eligible charter school operators to address the needs of educational capacity, workforce qualifications, and career education opportunities that may extend beyond a school district's boundaries.

HB 1197 authorizes state universities and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to sponsor charter schools upon approval by the Department of Education (DOE), repeals present limitations on charter schools operated by an FCS institution with a teacher preparation program, and establishes operational funding and capital outlay funding formulas for charter schools sponsored by a state university and FCS institution.

The bill also requires the DOE, in collaboration with charter school sponsors and operators, to develop a sponsor evaluation framework and report results in its annual charter school application report. In addition, the bill revises charter school application reporting requirements and submission dates for both sponsors and the DOE.

The bill now heads to the Senate for their consideration.

Florida House Approved Campaign Fund Spending Bill

HB 533 relates to the disposition of surplus funds by candidates. Currently, there are four authorized methods by which a candidate or former candidate may dispose of his or her campaign funds after an election. One of those methods includes donating the excess funds to a charitable organization or organizations that meet the requirements of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This bill prohibits a candidate from being employed by the charitable organization to which he or she donates the funds.